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REPORTAGE ON EVENTS IN IRAN

FBIS FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE

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FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Middle East & North Africa

Vol V No 048 Supp 060 *10 March 1980*

Reportage on Events in Iran

7 March Developments Concerning U.S. Relations, Hostages 1
Esfahan Students Support Occupation 1
Demonstrations at U.S. Embassy 1
Pettiti Remarks 2
8 March Developments Concerning U.S. Relations, Hostages 2
Students' Statement on Handover 2
Qotbzadeh Interview 3
Republican Party Support for Students 3
Khomeyni Silent on Hostages 4
Bani-Sadr, Students on Hostages 5
Foreign Ministry To Accept Hostages 5
Further Report 5
Qotbzadeh Remarks 6
Khalkhali Statement on Release 6
Tabriz Protest of Handover 7
Shiraz Demonstration 7
Tehran Demonstration Against Handover 8
More Demonstrations Against Compromise 8
Student Statement on Hostages 9
Revolution Council Statement on Transfer 9
Qotbzadeh Statement 10
9 March Developments Concerning U.S. Relations, Hostages 11
Carter's Expression of Regret 11
Vigil Over Embassy 11
Demonstrations at Embassy 11
Ahvaz Protest Against Handover 12
Guards Backing of Khomeyni 13
Qotbzadeh Communique on Negotiations 13
Students on Commission Meeting, Handover 14
Further Remarks on Transfer 14
Students Demand Shah's Return 15
Students Interview 15
Qotbzadeh Criticism of Students 18
Revolution Council Decision on Transfer 18
More on Council's Decision 18
Qotbzadeh Statement on Situation 19
10 March Developments Concerning U.S. Relations, Hostages 26
Ban on Marches, Rallies 26
Bani-Sadr on Hostages, U.S. 26
Khomeyni Message on Commission's Meeting 27
More on Khomeyni Message 27
AFP Reports on Khomeyni Decision 28
Events Concerning Majles Elections Reported 29
Possibility of Debates 29
Bani-Sadr Viewpoint on Debates 29
Ayatollah Kani on Assembly's Importance 30

7 MARCH DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Esfahan Students Support Occupation

LD071203 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Islamic society of the students of Azad University in Esfahan have addressed a cable to the Muslim and struggling people of Iran, asking them to pay attention to the wishes of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy which is the embodiment of the wish of all the nation in the issue of the spies and the den of espionage, because any deed which does not bear in mind the orders of the imam of the nation, such as the handing over of the hostages of the nation to the government and to the Revolution Council, or any such action can be a step toward the moves desired by the United States and not toward attempting to extradite Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and the wealth that he has plundered.

Demonstrations at U.S. Embassy

LD071228 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1045 GMT 7 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The inhabitants of Tehran, marking the complete recovery of Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and the founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, marched along Tehran's avenues toward the university. The marchers were joined by various groups and classes, and while passing the U.S. spy nest, chanted slogans calling for a continuation of the revelations by the Muslim student folloers of the imam's policy. [begin recording]

Since yesterday following the unexpected statement by the students pertaining to handing over the hostages to the Revolution Council committee, various groups of people have assembled opposite the den of espionage chanting slogans calling on the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy to keep the hostages in the den of espionage. (?The groups of people) who marched today from various parts of Tehran to the den of espionage and to Tehran University, in thanksgiving for the recovery of Imam Khomeyni and his discharge from hospital, assembled opposite the den of espionage and insistently called on the student followers of the imam's policy to keep the hostages.

"Rest the arms from irresponsible hands!" [slogan chanted several times] The fate of the hostages is to be decided soon by the representatives of the nation at the Islamic Assembly. At any rate, this is something which will be decided during the next 2 or 3 days.

"Mr president of the republic, wrest the arms from irresponsible hands, bar the path to corruption, murder and plots!" [chanted slogan] [end recording]

Meanwhile the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy stationed at the den of espionage of the United States, this wounded foe of our oppressed nation, have held a march and demonstrations within the spy center. Please pay attention to another report on these ceremonies. [begin recording]

Pay attention to another part of this (?report) and see for yourselves [presumably referring to TV report] the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy who are chanting slogans within the U.S. spy center in Iran. The gist of their slogans, as far as I am able to gather, is that the (?criminal) United States of America continues its colonialist policies. [slogans indistinct]

At any rate, the normalization of Iranian-U.S. relations has nothing to do with the fate of the hostages, but rather depends on U.S. policy with regard to Iran's independence. [end recording]

Pettiti Remarks

NC071522 Paris AFP in English 1453 GMT 7 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Paris, March 7 (AFP)--Members of the international inquiry commission probably will visit the 50 American hostages at the U.S. Embassy in Tehran on Sunday or Monday, French lawyer and commission member Louis-Edmond Pettiti said today.

The commission formed to investigate alleged crimes of Iran's ex-shah will try to "establish a dialogue" and "listen and help," when they are allowed to visit, Mr. Pettiti said on his arrival in Paris this morning. He is to leave again for Tehran tomorrow.

The visit will be on a humanitarian level, Mr. Pettiti said, even family-like. The commission will ask about the health and morale of all the hostages during the conversations, which he said will be private and free.

The commission's "excellent impact" in Iran, and particularly the fact that it has improved the UN's image there, were elements that would help settle the American-Iranian crisis, according to Mr. Pettiti. The two other elements are actions taken by UN Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim and negotiations between Washington and Tehran, he said.

The commission's work in Iran has achieved a loosening of the situation, Mr. Pettiti continued, and said that the work has two goals: The inquiry into the shah's regime and help in solving the American-Iranian stalemate.

Mr. Pettiti was circumspect as to the hostages' eventual liberation, saying that it depended on several factors and on a constantly changing situation. He said that it would most likely not take place before the first round of legislative elections on March 14.

But the French attorney said that it might be possible for liberation to take place between the second round of voting and the assembly's installation, recalling that the Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni had given responsibility for the hostages' fate to the next assembly.

8 MARCH DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Students' Statement on Handover

LD080754 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued today by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. According to information which has reached us, the published report quoting Mr Sadeq Qotbzadeh pertaining to the imam's command on the handing over of the hostages is a tissue of lies. Meanwhile, we regret that we cannot hand over the hostages to the minister of foreign affairs. It is essential, therefore, for the Revolution Council to officially appoint another representative to take delivery of the hostages.

Qotbzadeh Interview

LD080945 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In an interview last night Sadeq Qotbzadeh announced that, by the command of the imam and with the unanimous approval of the Revolution Council, he would go as the representative of the revolution to the site of the former U.S. Embassy today to take delivery of the hostages from the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy. [begin recording]

[Question] Mr Qotbzadeh, during an interview you announced that by the command of the imam and by the unanimous approval of the Revolution Council you are due to go to the U.S. den of espionage in order to take delivery of the hostages there from the students. I would like to say that when we contacted the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, they said that the imam had not issued such an order. I beg you to tell us what the purpose is behind your statement that you would be taking delivery of the hostages by the command of the imam. Kindly provide an explanation for the benefit of our dear listeners.

[Answer] The report given to the Revolution Council affirmed that the students' proposal to hand over the hostages to the Revolution Council has been sanctioned by the imam. Therefore, the Revolution Council, too, on the same basis agreed that it should take delivery of the hostages. This is what the whole thing was about. The imam has not directly issued an order to myself in this connection. But it is a fact that the imam entrusted the issue to the Revolution Council. What concerns me at the moment is that--since it is (?a fact) that the students themselves proposed adopting that course, and the Revolution Council agreed to it, and in view of the imam's promise to entrust and bring this issue to the attention of the Revolution Council--therefore, the responsibility for taking delivery has been entrusted to myself. It follows, therefore, that to carry out the decision of the Revolution Council and to solve the present crisis I shall go to the den of espionage. In the meantime, I am forced to point out emphatically that taking delivery of the hostages is under no circumstances aimed at their release. That task, by the order of the imam, is entrusted to the National Consultative Assembly.

[Question] Thank you very much for your reply.

[Answer] Not at all. [end recording]

Republican Party Support for Students

JN080928 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0810 GMT 8 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI publishes a statement on page 1 by the Islamic Republican Party addressed to the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, on the occasion of the latest developments concerning the hostages issue.

The statement says: [Word indistinct] to the results achieved by the revolutionary occupation of the former U.S. Embassy and the domestic and external dimensions of this exciting act. The statement says that the struggling revolutionary students have demonstrated to the world that our young men are not deceived by western or eastern slogans but are young men whose acts precede their words in the arena of struggle against world imperialism and the enemies of justice.

These faithful young men have chosen to follow Al-Husayn's path, that of God, in their heroic struggle against despotic, unjust and atheist forces. Your action was an Islamic and revolutionary duty that polarized the support of our masses and of freedom-loving forces in the world.

The paper addresses the students: We would like to draw your attention to the following points at this critical stage and delicate turning point in the history of our heroic people's struggle:

1. We must not forget that we are still at the beginning of the struggle against the world's atheist forces, with the criminal United States at their head. We have to be more determined, show more courage and must continue on the road of the bloody struggle and must be alert to sabotage methods fabricated by those who followed the Western and Eastern courses.

2. You have occupied the den of espionage, which is a U.S. atheist bastion, and we have to be more determined than those who are conspiring against us, those who are conspiring against us in various ways. The hostages, who in reality are the nation's hostages, should be kept under the nation's revolutionary control until imperialism responds and gives in to our masses just demands.

3. The revelation of the conspiratorial documents must continue, for this is a revolutionary task that enjoys the support of the imam and the trust of the nation, despite the fact that foreigners try to belittle this revolutionary action. All persons who had connection with atheist forces must be exposed. This is our masses request. However, Islamic moral concepts should be taken into consideration.

4. During this delicate stage, when U.S. and Soviet forces and their agents are trying to weaken the central government, we have to remain alert in order not to repeat the tragedy that occurred during Mossadeq's era. We observe these forces and their agents continuing their persistent efforts to create confusion and disorder in our universities, schools, plants and production centers, to keep us in need of the foreigners and to keep our country linked to the East and West. The duty of all revolutionary forces that believe in the revolution is to support the president of the republic, who was elected by our heroic people, and to support the Revolution Council and all government agencies and departments. They must extend assistance and support to them [words indistinct]. It is noraml that you, the students, will stand in the forefront of those who shoulder revolutionary responsibilities in achieving this objective. It goes without saying that you are aware of this responsibility.

Khomeyni Silent on Hostages

LD0809**44** Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0930 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued by the office of Imam Khomeyni--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In connection with the delivery of the hostages to the Revolution Council certain newspapers have attributed this to the imam, but his holiness the Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the revolution and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran, prefers to remain silent on this and has entrusted the issue of the hostages to the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

[Signed] The office of Imam Khomeyni, Qom.

Bani-Sadr, Students on Hostages

LD081214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following a report saying that the proposal on the hostages had been submitted to Imam Khomeyni as quoted by Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, in a contact established by the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran with Mr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr the latter said: Following a contact established between the newspaper BAMDAD with Mr Entezaryun an item citing me was published by that paper to the effect that the students presented the proposal to the imam on the delivery of the hostages.

In a telephone conversation with Dr Abolhasan the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Revolution of Iran raised this issue, and in reply he said: This was not so. Rather I have said that the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy have proposed to one of the members of the Revolution Council and to Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni that the hostages and the embassy be handed over to the Revolution Council. The president added: When I was received by the leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni raised this issue and I, too, declared by agreement and then raised the issue at the Revolution Council; and then this was approved by the by the Revolution Council.

In a contact established in this connection with the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy the students declared: Following the talks that took place between the students' representatives at the prime minister's office with a number of the members of the Revolution Council, including Mr Bani-Sadr, the details of these talks were brought to the attention of the entire Muslim people of Iran in a statement issued by the Public Relations Office of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy which expressed the opposition of the students to a meeting between the investigatory commission with the hostages as proposed by the responsible officials of the commission.

In a telephone conversation with the students the former supervisor of the Interior Ministry inquired about this and they reaffirmed thier viewpoints, but since the responsible officials of the commission thought that this meeting should take place anyhow and the students did not wish to confirm by their opposition the accusation of having set up a state within a state they thus proposed: The only way open to us is to deliver the hostages so that a meeting might take place between the members of the commission with the hostages in any manner desirable to the responsible officials of the commission.

Foreign Ministry To Accept Hostages

LD081042 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In an interview today a Revolution Council spokesman emphasized that the Revolution Council has entrusted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the task of taking delivery of the hostages.

Further Report

LD081117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1039 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Text] In an interview with a correspondent of PARS NEWS AGENCY today, a Revolution Council spokesman confirmed that the Revolution Council had entrusted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs with the task of taking delivery of the hostages.

In reply to the question of whether the students' proposal had been presented to the imam and had not been placed at the disposal of the Revolution Council, the Revolution Council spokesman said: As you may well know, that proposal was in effect broadcast by the radio, which is how the Revolution Council became aware of it. Based on past experience, and giving credence to reports by the media, the news was also brought to the attention of the imam.

The PARS NEWS AGENCY correspondent asked: Does it therefore follow that the imam has not issued a direct order to the Revolution Council?

The Revolution Council spokesman answered: You should ask Mr Bani-Sadr about this. But as far as the Revolution Council is concerned, the Revolution Council decided to approve the students' proposal on taking delivery of the hostages.

The question was then asked: Has the Revolution Council unanimously approved Sadeq Qotbzadeh as the council's representative?

The Revolution Council spokesman answered: Yes. It was decided that the reponsibility for taking delivery should be entrusted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and of course Mr Qotbzadeh would therefore be responsible. The Revolution Council spokesman refused to express an opinion about the viewpoint of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, who had deemed a meeting between the members of the commission investigating the crimes of the shah with the hostages as a deviation from the imam's policy.

Foriegn Ministry Statement

ID081207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1112 GMT 8 Mar 80 ID

["Text" of statement issued by the minister of foreign affairs to the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran--read by announcer]

[Text] In His exalted name. Regarding the statement issued by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy stationed at the U.S. den of espionage about the lack of the imam's approval concerning the handing over of the hostages to the Revolution Council, in which the student followers called [as heard] a tissue of lies, it is pointed out that:

1. Whatever has been said quoting the imam has been based on the report submitted to the Revolution Council on Thursday.

2. The Revolution Council has declared its unanimous approval of the handing over of the hostages.

3. On behalf of the council, I [Sadeq Qotbzadeh] have been assigned to this task, and will inform the brave Iranian nation of all the matters in an interview tonight. May a dark day befall the deceitful.

[Signed] Sadeq Qotbzadeh, minister of foreign affairs.

Khalkhali Statement on Release

NC081351 Paris AFP in English 1347 GMT 8 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 8 (AFP)--The American hostages will not be leaving the occupied U.S. Embassy here today, said Ayatollah Mohammed Khalkhali, an Islamic Revolutionary Court judge.

The ayatollah's statement came as the hostages' militant captors were embroiled in a dispute with Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh over plans to turn the captive American diplomats over the Iranian authorities.

The estimated 50 hostages "will not leave the U.S. Embassy today," Ayatollah Khalkhali told thousands of demonstrators waiting for hours outside the American diplomatic mission.

The militants said in a telephone interview that they had no knowledge of Ayatollah Khalkhali's statement, but they were still awaiting representatives of the Revolutionary Council so they could turn over the hostages.

They repeated their insistence that they would not hand over their captives to Mr. Qotbzadeh.

Tabriz Protest of Handover

GF081619 Tabriz Domestic Service in Azerbaijani 1430 GMT 8 Mar 80 GF

[Text] A group of university and high school students marched through the streets of Tabriz today to support the students at the U.S. Embassy shouting "down with the U.S." and "down with conciliatiors." They gathered at Qiyam Avenue. One of the students spoke about the decision to hand over the U.S. hostages to the Revolution Council and pointed out that such a decision is not compatible with the imam's policy. A four-point resolution was also read at the rally. The resolution supports the student followers of the imam's policy and strongly criticizes the actions of conciliators.

Shiraz Demonstration

GF091245 Shiraz Domestic Service in Persian 1500 GMT 8 Mar 80 GF

[Text] Demonstration was held in Shiraz at 1500 today to support the student followers of the imam's policy at the U.S. espionage den and to confirm the continuation of the revolutionary movement by these true sons of the imam against the arch-Satan, the United States. The march was organized by the Muslim student headquarters and the Muslim student organization of the Univeristy of Shiraz and held in front of the College of Literature. At the end of the march today an eight point resolution was read by these groups. The resolution said the student followers of the imam's policy are the true representatives of the nation, the imam's hope and the guiding light of the revolution. The resolution asked the Revolution Council to understand the meaning of the imam's silence and to realize that there is a limit to the people's patience.

In referring to the trial of the traitorous shah, which is the people's legitimate demand, the resolution said the eloquent spokesman of the people, the imam, has expressed himself clearly on this matter. Referring to the hostages, which is not a matter of an individual or a special group the resolution noted: "We insist and reemphasize strongly that until the Islamic Parliament is formed, the hostages must remain under the custody and direct supervision of the students." The resolution also supported the actions of the student followers of the imam's policy for revealing various documents found in the espionage den. Finally, the resolution called for the resignation of the foreign minister.

Tehran Demonstration Against Handover

LD081554 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1530 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Text] According to our correspondent, following the report on the handing over of the hostages this afternoon by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy at the espionage den, tens of thousands of people, carrying slogans in support of the students, gathered in front of the espionage den and expressed their support for the Muslim students followers of the imam's policy, insisting that the hostages be kept by the students as stated by Imam Khomeyni until such time as the Majles is established. The crowd gathering in front of the espionage den shouted: The revolution is victorious; compromisers are doomed, and as stated by Khomeyni, whatever position he holds, the compromiser should be eliminated.

According to reports, all university students throughout the country have expressed their support for the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy, calling of them to refrain from handing over the hostages to the Revolution Council. Our correspondent reports that as late as 1830 today no representative either from the Revolution Council or the Foreign Ministry has referred to the espionage den in order to take delivery of the hostages.

More Demonstrations Against Compromise

LD081728 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Statement issued 8 March by Islamic societies and Muslim university student organizations--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God. We, the members of Islamic societies and Muslim university student organizations, by virtue of the responsibility we feel with respect to the great movement by our Muslim sisters and brothers at the den of espionage, declare that we shall spend the night in front of the den of espionage in order to prove that we shall follow the imam's policy till our dying breath, as well as:

1. Expressing our decisive support for the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy;

2. Stressing the importance of the issue of the hostages and its vital effect on our revolution;

3. Protesting against the non-Islamic and unethical methods of certain officials in attributing lies to the imam;

4. Stressing the need for negation of any compromise;

5. Preventing the transfer of the hostages until a decision is reached by the imam or the nation's representatives;

6. Declaring that the UN commission's work is solely to investigate the crimes committed by the criminal shah and America and that its meeting with the hostages is nothing but a U.S. plot.

[Signed] Islamic societies and Muslim university student organizations.

Student Statement on Hostages

JN081958 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 8 Mar 80 JN

[Statement issued 8 March by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy residing in the U.S. 'den of espionage'--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Noble, struggling and mature Iranian people: Within our expression of our complete appreciation and thanks for your sincere support, especially that of our dear brother and sister students of schools and universities, we would like to draw your attention to the following points:

1. The destiny of the people and the homeland as well as the destiny of the progress of the great Iranian Islamic renaissance in the face of the superpowers, particularly the colonialist oppressive United States--the first enemy, which is the source of all our catastrophes--cannot be achieved except through the unity and safeguarding of opinion under Imam Khomeyni, leader of the nation and founder of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

2. We humbly call on all the people to carry on with their great revolution under Imam Khomeyni and his decisive and noncapitulatory leadership and to direct their slaps to the face of the United States, which is exposed and colonialist, so that it will learn that any initiative toward releasing the hostages will only be abortive efforts and that the struggling Iranian people have decided to continue their struggle in order to extradite the fleeing deposed shah and the wealth he plundered until all forms of subservience are uprooted. As Imam Khomeyni said, the destiny of the hostages will be decided by the Islamic Shura Council.

3. As long as we do not consider the issue of a meeting between the investigation commission and the hostages as a revolutionary step nor within the imam's trend, and as long as we do not consider standing in the face of the officials and the executive authorities and creating a government within a government as a revolutionary act nor in the interest of the country, we decided to hand over the hostages.

We condemn, denounce and reject any sit-in, strike or any similar initiative that may end in the interest of opportunists and plotters.

Revolution Council Statement on Transfer

LD081918 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1830 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

["Text" of 8 March statement by the Revolution Council in connection with the transfer of the hostages, "issued in order to clear up the facts and remove any ambiguity"--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Considering the rumors and discussions with regard to the handing over of the U.S. hostages to the Revolution Council and in view of the fact that, regrettably, certain elements, wittingly or unwittingly, are always trying to fan rumors and thus remove the understanding and cooperation which are at present the secret of our (?success), the Revolution Council deems it necessary to inform the public of the details of the events, in order to clear up facts and remove any ambiguity:

When the question of arrival of the commission of inquiry into the crimes of the ousted Mohammad Reza Pahlavi was raised at the Revolution Council and approved, Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the chairman of the Revolution Council, raised the point with the imam of the nation in order to seek his views. The imam agreed with the arrival of the mission in Iran and its probably meeting [presumably with the hostages].

Having been notified of the council's decision about the probably meeting of the mission, the Muslim students stationed at the former U.S. Embassy expressed their opposition. The Revolution Council which considered the opposition of these brothers and sisters, despite explicit order issued by the imam regarding the need to obey the Revolution Council as unacceptable, announced its decision as a responsible source in a meeting held with the participation of the president, a number of council members and the representatives of the students. This was on Monday, 3 March.

Some student representatives, during a long meeting with Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani, a member of the Revolution Council, stated that they would hand over the hostages to the Revolution Council, thus relieving themselves of any responsibility. Mr Hashemi Rafsanjani warned the brothers against this action. This was on Wednesday, 5 March.

Despite all these, in a statement sent directly to the media on Thursday, 6 March, the students announced that they considered themselves as having no responsibility for keeping the hostages and that they would hand them over to the Revolution Council. The Revolution Council held a meeting on Thursday evening to discuss the persistent decision by the students to hand the hostages over to the Revolution Council. The question was raised in this meeting concerning the students continuing to have responsibility for the hostages as the most suitable way to deal with the problem. However, as it appeared that the students were determined to relieve themselves of such a responsibility, the question as to which government organ should have the responsibility was discussed. It was eventually decided that should the students persist in their decision, then the Foreign Ministry should take delivery of and keep the hostages, until such time when the Islamic Consultative Assembly would make a final decision.

What has been and is the council's view is that the commission can meet the hostages, unless the students continue to oppose such a meeting, in which case, as they proposed, the hostages should be handed over and the Foreign Ministry should then be responsible for the procedure.

In conclusion it is emphasized that any decision about the fate of the hostages, as announced by the imam, is up to the nation's representatives and the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

[Signed] The Islamic Republic Revolution Council; Saturday, 8 March 1980.

Qotbzadeh Statement

NC082040 Paris AFP in English 2035 GMT 8 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 8 (AFP)--Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council held a new meeting today on the affair of the American hostages and Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said afterwards that the decision to allow the United Nations commission of inquiry to see the prisoners was irrevocable.

But he said that transfer of the hostages from the U.S. Embassy to another place of detention and to council control was now only "a possibility".

He said there had been no change in the Revolutionary Council's position, following a day of confusion after a plan to hand the hostages, held by Iranian students in the U.S. Embassy here, over to the council, failed to materialise.

The minister said there would be no problem if the students allowed the UN commission to see all the hostages without conditions. "But if they are opposed to this, the Revolution Council will take charge of the hostages."

Answering a question, Mr. Qotbzadeh said it did not matter to him if he did not go to the embassy in person to collect the hostages. He added that the situation "would be clarified tomorrow" (Sunday).

9 MARCH DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Carter's Expression of Regret

LD090456 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0338 GMT 9 Mar 80 LD

[Text] It has been announced in Washington that U.S. President Jimmy Carter is ready to express American regrets for the mistakes and tyranny of the regime of the deposed shah in Iran, but he is not ready to accept all the responsibility on behalf of America. Carter made this statement to representatives of the American press.

It is mentioned that the White House position on accepting responsibility in Iran is negative while, as reported by AFP, President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr of the Islamic Republic of Iran has considered this to be one of the conditions for the release of the American hostages in Tehran.

Vigil Over Embassy

NC091107 Paris AFP in English 1052 GMT 9 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpt] Tehran, March 9 (AFP)--Up to 300 Iranians were massed outside the American Embassy here today after an all night vigil while talks went on inside about transferring custody of the estimated 50 hostages. The militants occupying the embassy since November had planned to hand them over yesterday to the Revolutionary Council, but the plan went wrong amid widespread confusion and a row between the militants and Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh.

Today they said they would announce a new date for the handover "later," but did not exclude that it might go ahead today.

Meanwhile a religious figure who had previously acted as a go-between for the militants and Iranian authorities, Hojjat oil-Eslam Mosavi Kho'ini, arrived at the embassy today for talks with the occupants.

Demonstrations at Embassy

NC091332 Paris AFP in English 1320 GMT 9 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 9 (AFP)--Over 5,000 demonstrators, including several thousand Marxist-Leninists (Khalq), gathered today outside the United States Embassy here in support of "the Islamic students" opposing Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh's attempts to force them to hand 50 American hostages over to the Revolutionary Council.

Calls condemning the "Qotbzadeh plot," rivalled with shouts to punish and execute the hostages, held by Muslim extremists since November 4.

Close on the Marxist-Leninist came a group of religious extremists (Hezbolain), archenemies of the communist demonstrators but solidly behind the students in the embassy. For once, no clashes occurred between the two rivals.

The familiar slogan "Death to America," echoed on either side of the embassy gates as the students inside joined in the chanting.

Students who took part in an all-night vigil in front of the embassy last night, said meanwhile that comrades would be arriving to relieve them and carry on the watch to prevent the hostages being removed from the embassy.

Ahvaz Protest Against Handover

GF091735 Ahvaz Domestic Service in Persian 1330 GMT 9 Mar 80 GF

[Text] A demonstration was held in Ahvaz today to support the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy stationed at the U.S. espionage nest and to protest handing the American spies over to the Revolution Council. The demonstration, which was organized by the Islamic student society of the University of Ahvaz, involved students from the university's Islamic societies and the center for teacher training, the teachers college, the institute of technology and a number of other persons.

According to reports from our correspondent, the marchers carried portraits of Imam Khomeyni and various banners. Shouting slogans, they declared their firm support for the imam's leaderhip and the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy and protested the handing over of the hostages. They declared any compromise or reconciliation with the United States as treason against the Iranian nation. After passing through several main streets of the city, the marchers gathered at the Jazayeri Mosque where a six-point resolution was read as follows:

1. We want the nation's imam, just as he has always made the shallow, satanic, arrogant people tremble, to once again oppose those calling for reconcilation in order to rescue the Islamic Revolution and provide for the world's oppressed peoples.

2. According to the order of the imam's divine leadership, the final fate of the spies will be the responsibility of the Islamic Parliament. These hostages should remain in the custody of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy until that time.

3. We support the revelations of the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy and consider these revelations vital for the strength and preservation of the Islamic Revolution, which separates right from wrong.

4. Radio and television stations must be independent and should serve the Islamic Revolution of the Muslim nation. In this respect, the broadcasting of interviews and revelations by the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy is a historic mission entrusted to this national media by the Islamic Revolution.

5. While decisively supporting the Muslim student followers of the imam's policy stationed at the espionage nest, we insist that they should continue their ideological movement and resist all bullying and domination that could result in nothing other than conciliation and compromise with U.S. imperialism.

6. The conciliatory move by some members of the Revolution Council regarding the visit to the American spies by the factfinding commission investigating the crimes of the traitorous shah, which has been planned and schemed for by the criminal United States, is a policy and line divorced from those of the imam and is a conciliatory move toward the United States which we strongly condemn.

The march was supported and confirmed by all revolutionary bodies of the Corps of Islamic Revolution Guards in Ahvaz as well as by the Reconstruction Crusade in this city.

Guards Backing of Khomeyni

LD091802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1643 GMT 9 Mar 80 LD

[Announcement issued by the central headquarters of the Revolution Guards Corps; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] It is written in the constitution of the corps and we have repeatedly announced that the Guards Corps considers the Velayat-e Faqih [vice regency of the chief theologian] to be the most revolutionary article and one which should be adhered to at all costs, and is proud to deem itself dutybound to follow Imam Khomeyni at all times and under all circumstances.

With regard to this issue, there is nothing left to say but the decree of our leader: the issue of the hostages is in the hands of the representatives of the people and the Islamic Consultative Assembly.

Qotbzadeh Communique on Negotiations

NC091720 Paris AFP in English 1710 GMT 9 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 9, (AFP)--The "Islamic students" holding 50 Americans hostage in the United States Embassy have set "new conditions" on handing them over to the Revolutionary Council, Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh said today. In a communique published by PARS NEWS AGENCY, Mr Qotbzadeh said the conditions had been submitted to his ministry after "lengthy negotiations," but did not explain what the new demands were.

Mr Qotbzadeh's communique gave the following account of these negotiations: "The representative of the Foreign Ministry went to the den of espionage (the U.S. Embassy) to take delivery of the American hostages.

"After detailed negotiations the Moslem students proposed the following conditions for the delivery of the hostages:

"1. The students must be informed eight hours ahead about the time of delivery and this time should be sometime before the 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. radio news so that the public could be informed of the measure.

"2. From the moment of the delivery of the hostages the responsibility for their lives must rest with those who take delivery of them.

"In view of the above conditions it is clear that the students have no intention to deliver the hostages and do not wish the U.N. commission to meet them," the statement said.

The statement declared: "It is clear that (?the reasons) that prompt the students to (want to) publicize the precise time of the hostages' release will permit the 2,000-odd persons permanently assembled before the embassy, and whose opinions are known to all, to prevent the handing over from taking place, thus permitting the students to proclaim that the nation has asked them to keep the hostages."

The Foreign Ministry concluded by saying that the stand taken by the students "clearly reveals how the matter would end--no further comment is needed."

The militants must decide within the next 24 hours whether they will allow the international commission to see the hostages at the embassy or whether they will hand them over to the Revolutionary Council, Mr Qotbzadeh said.

Speaking after a council meeting, the foreign minister said, "Nothing has changed, as far as we are concerned. The essential thing is a commission visit to all the hostages."

The date for handing the hostages over to the Revolutionary Council will be set on Monday, Mr Qotbzadeh said.

Council Spokesman Hassan Habibi said meanwhile that the foreign minister was still authorized to accept the hostages' transfer, despite the fact that the militants holding them had refused to go through Mr Qotbzadeh.

Students on Commission Meeting, Handover

JN090824 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0800 GMT 9 Mar 80 JN

[Text] The Muslim student followers of the imam's policy have announced that the holding of a meeting between the members of the UN factfinding commission investigating the crimes of the deposed shah and all the hostages is impossible and is considered a deviationist act.

In a statement released today and reported by the PARS NEWS AGENCY, the students added that the U.S. spy hostages are ready for delivery [Arabic: muaddun li at-taslim] to the representative of the Islamic Revolutionary Council who can come to the den of U.S. espionage between 100 and 1700 [Tehran local time] today, provided he brings with him an official order from the council.

Further Remarks on Transfer

NC091808 Paris AFP in English 1803 GMT 9 Mar 80 NC

[Text] Tehran, March 9, (AFP)--The Islamic militants occupying the U.S. Embassy said today that the American hostages would be turned over to the Revolutionary Council whenever the council so desired. But a spokesman reaffirmed in a press conference that the militants would not accept Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh as the council's representative during the transfer. The foreign minister was accused of making false statements.

Asked about the number of hostages, hesaid, "about 50. You will see when they are transferred."

He also said that they would try to keep control of the embassy so the militants could make public the documents allegedly revealing U.S. crimes and interference in Iranian affairs.

This transfer of thehostages does not imply their forthcoming release, the spokesman said. The future Iranian legislature must require the extradition of the ex-shah and the return of his wealth, he added.

In addition, he said that "secret" negotiations had taken place about the special United Nations commission investigating the charges against the ex-shah's regime.

Students Demand Shah's Return

NC092032 Paris AFP in English 2026 GMT 9 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 9, (AFP)--Moslem militants holding about 50 American hostages said today that the hostages would not be freed until the former shah returned to Iran even if they are turned over to Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council. The militants, who reiterated threats that the captives will be tried as alleged spies, said that friendly Iranian-American relations are "absolutely out of the question" and vowed to continue holding the U.S. Embassy here, site of the more than four-month-long hostage affair.

"If the shah is not returned, the spies will not be liberated," the militants said repeatedly in their first news conference since offering last tweek to turn the captives over to Iran's ruling Revolutionary Council.

The militants also warned that "our people will start a series of trials against the hostages--dirty spies--to expose the dirty face of American imperialism."

The militants refused to confirm the precise number of hostages. They held that there was no way Iran and the United States could establish friendly relations in the future.

Students Interview

GF092030 Tehran Domestic Television Service in Persian 1810 GMT 9 Mar 80 GF

[Interview with three representatives of the students holding the hostages at the American Embassy; unknown whether live or recorded--intercepted in progress]

[Excerpts] [Unidentified student] When this commission issues its findings and statements regarding the hostages it will be the words of the commission that will be listened to around the world. What guarantee do we have that these commission members have any sympathy for the Iranian nation and the Iranian Revolution and all the sufferings of our people. It is natural that they do not have the same kind of sympathy as the Iranian people. We have no guarantee that these commission members will act the way we and our revolution demands. So, the only thing we can do once the commission releases its findings is to offset and neutralize its false propaganda, if any, against us.

[Question] I want you to give me your views about this whole problem and the reaction of the officials in this respect.

[Answer] One of the most important matters since the beginning of the revolution has been the way some of our officials and administrators have been behaving in this country. Whether or not their actions and behavior have been in line with the imam's policy in this respect, the imam has repeatedly stated that we must get Mohammad Reza and he must stand trial. Otherwise, we will bring all the hostages to trial and by so doing will actually be bringing the United States to trial.

But as far as our officials and those in charge of the administration and their handling of this problem, they have not always been in line with the imam's policy. Our executives have been following a different policy. After all it is the duty of these officials to recognize and identify the actual line and direction of the imam's policy. We witnessed this during the provisional government. As soon as they were faced with any problem they would immediately threaten us with their resignation. This was nothing but an attempt to use the threat of resignation as a weapon against us, against domestic forces and against all proper lines and policies.

[Question] It has been said that if the hostages were in the hands of the Iranian Government it would mean a declaration of war against the United States. How would you answer and justify this point?

[Answer] From the very first day the hostages were taken by, in fact, the Iranian people, there were many views concerning the fact this act was in violation of international law. However Iran knows that the United States--the bloodthirsty and conspiratorial United States--ignores all matters and that it has violated the simplest rules regarding this nation. Therefore, for this nation international laws and regulation, have no meaning. The imam immediately confirmed this act of hostage taking and the whole nation approved it. This was a severe and irreparable blow to the United States. This whole episode was under the imam's leadership and it was moving under his leadership. It was moving decisively. We saw that whenever there was any statement or decision by the United States, or by Carter himself, against Iran the imam would immediately respond and refute them. For example, the United States said it would use force to free the hostages. The imam replied that the United States would not dare to do anything. When they threatened us with their economic sanctions, the imam stated clearly that the economic sanctions would be harmful to the United States, and not to Iran. However, the fact that the hostages are being turned over to the government, if the hostages should be handed over to the government, this would be as a declaration of war against the United States. [as heard]

But we have to see under what conditions this whole thing would not be considered as a declaration of war against the United States. This is something that must be made clear to the Iranian people. But in the international language it would naturally mean a declaration of war.

[Question] Another question in this respect. Don't you think that this act of [transferring the hostages] may be in the interest of the United States as well?

[Answer] Yes. We believe that in our confrontation with the United States and in general in this whole question of the occupation of the espionage den, it has been clearly proven that the United States cannot do anything at all. Our revolution proved this whole thing quite well and clearly. But if we should deviate from the imam's path and policy, then there can be another (?story). Obviously, the United States will be very pleased if this should happen. We could have continued this whole thing as we had in the past. We could have proven our decisiveness and thus could have had a confrontation with the United States by continuing the policy that we had followed from the frist day of the takeover. However, when we are faced with this other problem of government officials wanting to resign, and since this action would weaken them at this rate, and we do not in any way wish to enter into any controversy and disputes with the government officials, we prefer to hand them over to them. This way, if there whould be any deviation we would not be a participant in it.

[Question] Could you tell us how the students are behaving and how their activities will be conducted in the future?

[Answer] The students at the U.S. Embassy were formerly active in the society like everyone else. But all their activities were in line with the imam's policy. When the matter of taking over the espionage den occurred it was an event that was in accordance with the nation's wishes. The entire nation approved and supported this action. This was an action that enjoyed the imam's full support. Now that these students are handing the hostages over, it does not mean that these forces are being eliminated. These forces will pursue their activities in accordance with the imam's policy. In other words, transfer of the hostages does not in any way mean these students will be removed from the scene. I hope they will follow and continue their activities in all dimensions of society.

[Question] What about all these accusations against you and the matter of the revelations?

[Answer] We hope we will, in one way or other, continue our revelations. As we announced previously, we consider it our duty to make all documents and papers obtained at the espionage den available to the nation because they belong to the people. We will do this in whatever way possible. If the radio and television networks are willing to carry them we will do it that way; or through the use of the press; or through the embassy--the espionage nest itself. Otherwise, if no other way is available to us, we will publish them in books and make them available to the nation. Regarding the revelations and the accusations that these documents are forged and are not genuine, it is only natural that those who have been disgraced by these documents want to somehow acquit themselves.

The ironic thing is that the same people who try to say that these are all forged and phony documents, try on the other hand to justify why they have done all the things that we have revealed to them. Many of these spies we have been holding were the ones who had been in contact with these [Iranian] individuals. These papers and documents had been prepeared by these spies as a result of their conversations and contacts with these individuals. We would have brought these spies on television so they could be confronted by these individuals. However, now that these hostages are being handed over to the Revolution Council they will be the ones to decide what to do about this episode. But all those documents were seized from the espionage nest and there is no question about their accuracy and authenticity.

[Question] As a last question, I would like to know what the outcome and consequences of your action would be in relation to the transfer of the hostages to the Revolution Council?

[Answer] As followers of the imam's policy we wanted to preserve the ideological nature of our move and not give in to any kind of compromise or reconciliation. The imam's line and policy with all its prestige and grandeur should not be tained or blemished in any way because of our action. However, our decision was actually in the direction of unity. That is, our decision about handing over the hostages to the Revolution Council was in reality for the purpose of preserving our unity lest we should in any way--God forbid--be the victims of our feelings and sentimentality. We did not want to create any situation or confrontation that would destroy the order of our society and that state of unity which is necessary for our society. This action per se does have certain consequences and it will bring about certain worries and despair--that the question of the hostages might be solved in some way [other than the way we wanted]--but the nation is wary and alert and would not let the question of the hostages, which the imam has stressed, be solved in any other way.

As a matter of fact, nobody can toy with the hostage problem so easily, especially the hostages who are in our hands as a result of perhaps a whole century of tyranny and oppression inflicted upon this nation by colonialism. No one can kidnap them or let them go so easily. Our aim is to face this whole problem clamly with reason and logic without becoming victims of our own personal feelings and sentiments.

[Question] Thank you for taking part in this discussion.

Qotbzadeh Criticism of Students

LD091944 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 9 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The American hostages being held at the den of CIA spies in Tehran have not been delivered to the minister of foreign affairs yet. In order to solve the issue, the officials of the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran today met with the students holding the hostages. Following the meeting the foreign minister, Sadeq Qotbzadeh, criticized the stand of the Muslim students following the line of Imam Khomeyni and said apparently the students do not want to deliver the hostages. Qotbzadeh said the students have demanded that the delivery should be announced on the radio 8 hours prior to the delivery. Qotbzadeh claims that if the delivery was announced by the radio 1,000 or 2,000 people would gather around the former embassy and would resist their delivery.

Revolution Council Decision on Transfer

LD092046 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 9 Mar 80 LD

[Text] The Revolution Council held a session tonight at which Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni were present. At the end of tonight's session, the minister of foreign affairs announced that the Revolution Council will make its final decision on the time and hour of delivery of the hostages. Dr Bahonar, another member of the Revolution Council, said, concerning the same issue, that the Revolution Council will announce its view on the issue of hostages by tomorrow at lunchtime.

More on Council's Decision

LD092108 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2039 GMT 9 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Tonight's session of the Revolution Council was held in the presence of Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, the president, and Hojjat ol-Eslam Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni. At the end of this session Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh announced: Tomorrow the Revolution Council will make its final decision on the time and hour of the handing over of the hostages. He added: The decision of the Revolution Council on the hostages remain the same. On the same issue, another member of the Revolution Council announced: The Revolution Council will announce its view on the issue of hostages by tomorrow lunchtime.

At the end of this session, the spokesman of the Revolution Council regarding the decisions made tonight told the reporters: At tonight's session the method of voting in the elections was discussed. He added: It is not possible to use computers to read ballot sheets. Therefore, the Revolution Council approved that names should be written on ballot sheets.

But in order to facilitate the work, the same ballot sheets on which names of people are shown by numbers will be used and voters will write the names of the candidates of their choice on the back. [as heard] These ballot sheets will be distributed as samples. People are to identify their candidates by numbers and then put their candidates' names down on the back of the sheet.

Qotbzadeh Statement on Situation

GF092330 Tehran Domestic Television Service in Persian 1830 GMT 9 Mar 80 GF

[Statement by Iranian Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh on 9 March--live or recorded]

[Text] My thanks to the Almighty, and I pray to the Almighty that he should as soon as possible grant a speedy and total recovery to our beloved eminent leader so that he may witness the good deeds and wrongdoings, deviations, acts of honesty and events that have occurred this evening.

In response to our student friends--the students who are stationed at the espionage nest--a host of questions and points have been mentioned and discussed. In order to clear the public's questions about them, I have been commissioned by the Revolution Council to answer them. I hope this statement, which is being made for the first time, will provide some answers. I hope it will answer the people's questions and will draw the attention of our brothers and sisters to the comments and points which we hope were unintentionally overlooked by them. However, this is being done primarily to answer people's question. For this reason, no efforts will be made to employ the same tone and manner used by them. Before anything else, there is the question of the imam's policy. At least I, who had the honor of being his disciple for the past 17 years, have obeyed his orders. I was also in charge of reporting what I was commissioned to do, which I always did and would always return for further orders. When they talk about the imam's line and policy--and up until now nobody has addressed nor clarified this line and policy--everybody has a certain way of speaking about it. I will discuss what I have understood of it so we can see how far these matters are based on what we comprehend from it.

I believe the imam's policy speaks decisively, honestly, clearly and with moral honesty void of any and all kinds of politics and any other type of planning. It does not blame any one person or persons. It is based on knowledge, perspicacity and widom and it wants to preserve all our Muslim interests and the interests of our fatherland. It respects and honors the Islam of the oppressed. When someone claims to be a follower of the imam's policy, he must not only keep these points in mind but he should also make all of these points his guide in his daily life. It is on this basis that I should like to make explanations tonight.

In an interview, in which three of the gentlemen took part and made certain comments and statements, the central point of the questioning was the commission. I believe certain clearly inaccurate statements were made about this commission. In fact, certain false accusations were made. These are in no way parallel or compatible with the imam's policy. I would like to refer to these accusations and regard them as having been made solely as a result of unawareness so we can see what the future will bring.

Let me first describe once and for all the background of this commission. Long ago, after I was entrusted with the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, there was talk about selecting and bringing and international grand jury to, on the basis of documents and evidence in our possession, conduct an investigation into the government of Reza Khan's son and his entourage as well as the meddlings of the colonialist and criminal policies of the United States in Iran.

This plan was presented to the imam and was approved by him. So we started taking action in this direction. The imam had made statements in this regard. Naturally, this was first approved by the Revolution Council and was later submitted to the imam by the Revolution Council.

Unfortunately, in the course of implementing this plan, when we invited Mr MacBride to come here, he came accompanied by two attorneys who were members of the communist party. In the course of our discussions with them we were told that they would be willing to participate in such a commission provided that the hostages were released. For, as they put it, no decent human being would be willing to take part in this commission without the release of the hostages. They said that at the very least the hostages should be released after the commission had been formed and came to Iran. Not only did they tell me this, but I reported it to the Revolution Council. The Revolution Council assigned three members to discuss the matter with these gentlemen: Ayatollah Montazeri; my brother, Mr Habibi; and I attended the meeting. Naturally, these were unacceptable conditions. We could not actually accept them and could not choose the members of an international grand jury from among those personalities who could have had some international influence and impact, unless, of course, we wanted to simply have certain individuals who would come and sit and talk but who would not have had any public relations impact around the world.

After this incident, Mr Waldheim asked to come to Iran on two or three ocassions. We turned down his request every time. After everything had been discussed Mr Waldheim once again asked to come to Iran in order to obtain firsthand information and witness what had been happening in Iran. This matter was discussed at the Revolution Council and was presented to the imam. When everyone was present at the meeting of the Revolution Council the imam said he would not object to the idea and went on to say that he [the imam] was not an official person and would not meet anyone on an official basis. It was then clear that Mr Waldheim could come to Iran to obtain certain information and that the imam would not see him in any official capacity. This whole matter was immediately reported to Mr Waldheim. So he came and we, as much as we could, discussed various matters. We talked about the crimes committed here. Details of these discussions were presented to the imam who studied them. In order to help him [Waldheim] understand what had been going on in Iran we arranged for him to visit both the Behesht-e Zahra Cemetery as well as to see the invalids. [passage indistinct]

The question of an international commission was brought up in our discussion with Waldheim. The commission was to be formed on three principles: investigation of the shah's crimes; investigation of the shah's looting and those of his family members; and a visit with the hostages. This was reported to the Revolution Council at a meeting attended by all council members, among them Ayatollah Montazeri, who also took part. The question was brought up and was approved by every member of the council and the recording of that meeting's proceedings is still available. It was therefore agreed that Waldheim should take steps in this direction without delay. Upon his return to the United States, the U.S. Government would not approve the plan for the commission unless the hostages were released. They were insisting that in accordance with the Security Council Resolution, the hostages must be released in order for the commission to be formed. We resisted and insisted that the question of the hostages release must be totally separate and divorced from the matter of the commission.

This was a point upon which we persisted from the very beginning and upon which we are still insisting. Our insistence and resistance eventually resulted in the formation of the commission. Now what kind of individuals are the members of the commission? Mr (Banjavi) from Algiers is an Algerian revolutionary and a trustworthy person who for years had been in opposition to the regime. Mr Davoudi, is a well-known judge in Syria and is one of the staunchest supporters of Iran's Revolution and [word indistinct]. Mr Pettiti is is a Frenchmen who is a president of the French Bar Association. His statements and comments over the years against the shah are innumerable. In fact, in all cases whenever we had sent anyone of lawyers, they would have definitely voted for him. [as heard] Mr [name indistinct] from Venezuela studied and investigated the same type of crimes in Chile. And the last person, from Sri Lanka, is also interested in events in Asia. We accepted this commission when it was formed and it came to Iran. The Revolution Council was fully informed about the details of the matter, and, in fact, this whole question of the commission coming here to investigate matters was also presented to the imam. After taking this matter into consideration the imam announced that the commission could come and investigate the shah's crimes and act accordingly. The imam advised the whole nation that whoever had any kind of document and evidence concerning the shah's crimes was dutybound to go and discuss them with the commission members. In fact, there were times when one would be seized by a strange feeling upon seeing those scenes. [passage indistinct] All statements and documents given by these victims were prepared so that not only the commission members could study them but we could present them to the Panamanian court as well. But the fact is that of all these students who claimed and still claim they have documents and evidence against the shah's regime--although the commission invited them and although the Panamanian lawyer invited them to present and submit their cases--not one of them came forward to submit their evidence.

However, there were no promises or obligations on the part of the commission members. Rather, it was our initiative. Unfortunately, there are certain people in this country who cannot believe that an Iranian can use his own initiative and can show resistance and take action. Even now, these people still find the American hand interfering in everything.

They still believe that the United States is always meddling. In the past there was also a time when if the meat in the stew was not cooked well everyone used to say that the British had something to do with it. Anyway, this was at at our own initiative. It was our own initiative from the very beginning, and it was a right and proper initiative. Some people are saying that this commission is supervised by Waldheim or by the United States. What does this mean? Does this mean that you are doubting the honor and honesty of all the members of this commission? Or, going a step further, that it is the imam's order that we should cooperate with this commission? And now you are trying to say that even the imam is not following his own policies? What kind of logic is this? Why should the truth be twisted? It is very illogical and unbecoming. Some insist on saying that this commission was presented under a different guise. First they said it was established to obtain the purpose of visiting the hostages. Yes, all kinds of things were planned outside the country. Many things have been said against our revolution. Are we supposed to be an unchanging subordinate of the outside world or are we to follow our own deeds and actions? Even at that time we did say that it was neither the qustion or condition of the hostages' release nor was it the question of solving the hostage problem. The commission's function was what has been explained and the question of the visit to the hostages was part of it.

Keeping all the documents and evidence in your possession for such a long time and your refusing to turn these documents over to the commission or to submit them to the Panamanian lawyer for the shah's extradition on the one hand, and your refusal to let the commission visit the hostages on the other hand does not make any sense at all. During this television interview, they said the commission would report to the world about the condition of the hostages or that they should be transferred to the hospital. The entire Iranian nation is fully aware that the condition of these hostages is very good and that they live a far better life than even the students themselves. Why should we be afraid of letting them be visited if it is a fact that their condition is good and there is no cause for concern or worry? Up until last week not even one member of the revolution Council had been able to visit the hostages much less [word indistinct]. The foreigners were allowed to see them but the members of the revolution Council were not asked to come and see them for themselves or ask them about their conditions. We only had reports saying that they were fine. Why on earth were you afraid of letting anyone see them? Ever a prisoner has visitation rights. Why has there been so much stubborn persistence in refusing to allow anyone to see them? Unless we say that all claims about their being fine and well are false, and this is something we do not wish to say such a thing for the time being; not for now anyway. However, it is not right that we should try to hinder someone trying to prepare any kind of report about the condition of the hostages. The students, on the other hand, believe that right from this moment we should try to hinder their action through some sind of propaganda! This is where we must remember that the imam is totally against any and all types of political maneuvering. We must say that this is not the basis of our promises or obligations. It is false to say that there have been some promises made and there are certain sneaky things going on. It is false to say that we want to transfer them to a hospital and then release them from the hospital! We have always been honest. Not one wrong word has ever been uttered by the imam's sacred tongue. Those who follow his policy must not resort to these types of tactics for these are tactics belying the imam's policy and line. This is very important. [passage indistinct] Why is there suddenly the question of having the initiative within our power and control? The commission members should leave now and return later! Why? Why? If we have had the initiative, we still have it.

Secondly, when the commission members have been told that such a thing [visiting the hostages] is feasible and they have come here, and we then back out on our promise, is this not enough reason for us to be ashamed and embarrassed? How could they possibly trust us and take our word for it? And why should they? Now, you either have certain information and you should make it available to them, or this whole thing could be based on some false imagination. And false imagination before a Muslim brother is not worthy or dignified.

I am addressing the struggling Muslim people who for many long years have been tortured and oppressed. How could they allow themselves to think that all members of the Revolution Council--who are all devoted friends of the imam, and some of whom have spent years in prison and some of whom have been serving the imam for years--could be called conciliators? And now it is only these gentlemen [militant students] who are the followers of the imam's policy? What kind of a mature, wise and unbiased person coult accept this? Our nation is both mature, wise and unbiased. Concerning the fact that the United States is exerting pressure, I discussed this matter with the other four members of the council in the presence of Dr Bani-Sadr to determine whether or not there is any proof or evidence for such a claim. So far, we have not obtained a single document proving this. Such a thing does not exist. Therefore, this claim was not correct either.

As far as supporting the imam and using the imam's words, who said the United States would not dare do anything? Yes, the imam did say that the United States would not dare do anything. The imam said we were not afraid of their economic blockade. Yes, he did say that. But what is our duty? Our duty is to take the imam's words and turn them into deeds. In other words, we must act so the United States will not dare do such a thing. Our duty is not simply to sit and shout slogans. Our duty is to act. We must convert the imam's orders from words into deeds. All our struggles have been aimed toward this goal. This is where the confrontations between the responsible followers of the imam and the irresponsible ones become evident. Here I must quite unfortunately mention that the scope of false accusations has become so prevalent that even at this time we hear that our foreign minister went to Europe and the U.S. secretary of state went to Europe and nobody knows what took place. Reports on my trip to Europe are still available and are clear. The U.S. secretary of state did not come to Europe at that time. He went there afterwards. Now, are you trying to say that nobody should travel from any part of the world to any other place simply because you can sit here and say that if they do go it would mean that they [word indistinct]? We went to Italy to discuss the helicopters that we have paid for, but they would not deliver them to us because of this whole episode. We needed and do need these helicopters. We needed the helicopters to cope with the problem of Khuzestan flood. As for other agreements and contracts with other countries, the same thing occurred in France. One billion dollars of our assets are frozen there in connection with nuclear energy. Should we not do these things? Are we not entitled? Don't we have a right" If we should take such a trip and later the U.S. secretary of state should take a trip, does this mean conciliation? This is where we can mention and remember that the imam's policy is the guardian of moral honesty.

As for this commission working under Waldheim's supervision, I believe I have sufficiently and adequately explained how it started and where it is now. What kind of a guarantee can we have that they should in any way be sympathetic toward Iran? What kind of a guarantee? Guarantee in its full sense can never be provided by anyone in any place in the world. A guarantee is usually dependent on a person's actions.

It is our words and deeds that can guarantee our statements in this world. When a number of individuals entrusted with the responsibility of our country's administration enter a clearcut agreement for the purpose of exposing these crimes and this agreement is blocked and hindered by a group, then who in this world will consider our words of our government worth a penny? However, after all this and after all these explanations, one of the gentlemen brought up the question of whether or not executive bodies are in line with the imam's policy? This is where I must mention that this suspicion and uncertainty do exist, if they allow themselves to have this kind of suspicion and uncertainty. I will mention something here so that we can get to its various cases later. The main question is whether or not we actually want to fight against the criminal United States or to weaken and destroy the country's executive power? One is entitled to such a question. These are the questions that it would not be a bad idea to debate someday and bring these matters up one at a time. Do not just use the word "mostly" by saying that the executive bodies are mostly not in line with the iman's policy. What does this word "mostly" mean? Now, are we also going to sit and be told what our duties and functions are supposed to be? Then they said that we had threatened to resign. That was why we said it was not so and we would give back the hostages. [sentence as heard] This was not so.

The reality in the case of taking the hostages was that the Revolutionary Council unanimously agreed that the commission should complete its work on all its three phases and should then leave the country. The students opposed this. They asked for discussions and negotiations. Yet there was no such arrangement that a number of the Revolution Council members would come and negotiate with these gentlemen.

Now, how many governments do we have in this country? Nevertheless, we did not object to their proposal. We got together and began talks. The next day a communique on the meeting was issued which unfortunately was not complete because other matters had been discussed at the meeting. After the meeting, these gentlemen went to the residence of one of the council members--unfortunately I am not at liberty to mention his name because he is a candidate for the Parliament--and held discussions there for 3 or 4 hours. That was where they had stated that they could not accept the council's proposal, and the council member had told them that the council's order must be carried out. Then the brother of the council member asked about our plan for the transfer of the hostages to the hospital, to which I replied that if there were no [health] problems there would be no such action. The question of transferring them to a hospital, I said, would only come up if there was a need for it. This can even be done under their own supervision if they so desire. After all, the nation must be aware of all of these, I went on to say. Presently, there is no talk about transferring them to a hospital at all. Then they issued their declaration that if we did not accept their proposal they would hand over the hostages. That is they would hand them over to the Revolution Council. The brother of the council member insisted that they should not do this. It would not be proper; and they should keep the hostages. But they kept insisting that they wanted to hand them over to the council. To tell you the truth, when I was told this over the telephone, I felt that it was a bluff rather than reality. So I said we would accept them and would be ready to confront any resulting international situation. It was very clear from the beginning that it was the imam's order that the Parliament was the only group that could speak on the people's behalf, and it would determine the fate of the hostages. Therefore, they will be kept until the Parliament convenes. So they went to the imam's residence and it was discussed there as well. The councilman's brother and Mr Bani-Sadr were assigned by the council to call on the imam and discuss the matter.

Mr Bani-Sadr went to see the imam, but the brother did not or could not go. The matter of students' statement about handing the hostages over to the council was brought up. The imam had replied that it would be acceptable provided that they should not be released until the Parliament convenes--without exception. Mr Bani-Sadr, as member of the council accepted this.

Now, where is the falsity about this whole thing that the newspapers, which are managed and financed by the funds for the oppressed, should put out bold headlines on behalf of the students, who are supposed to be honest and sincere and to call this a falsity. And I am fully behind this statement. But of course, all of those demonstrations and marches that were staged were the symbol and manifestation of those who insist that under no circumstances can we have any free time to manage the nation's affairs and that all of our minds and efforts should be focused and exhausted on that center [U.S. Embassy], and everyday there should be a communique.

As for the students' revelations, I have many things to say about them. These documents and evidence--we said from the very first day that they should be entrusted to certain persons so that no one could reach them. However, this was not done. I must say that some of these so-called documents that I have heard about are totally worthless. They are **not** documents of evidence. They often turn out to be the words of a certain American regarding his chance meeting with someone.

And as I already said, if some day we can enter into a face to face debate, we can bring some of these documents and analyze them. Naturally, I do not want matters to reach such a point. But day in and day out accusations are slapped at some people who have been toiling in this country for years and have gone through all types of miseries and misfortunes. They are called U.S. spies, its affiliates. Unfortunately most of them are candidates for the parliament or else I would mention their names one by one. I will mention their names in the newspapers. After all, why should they be so unjustly slandered. I am saying this here and now: if you have any single item or document on me, go ahead and publish it. It does not matter what these documents relate to. I am not afraid to announce right here that as far as I know the documents published so far are almost all worthless and useless. There is no reason that our decent men and statesmen should be so slandered and defamed. Why do you do this? For whose benefit? Why?

As for the last remark that was made here, and I must answer it right here and now and stop it. They said they would have liked to take each and every one of the hostages one by one and show them these documents for their authenticity. And now that the hostages are being handed over to the Revolution Council, the council has to take over this task. For 4 months you had these hostages and all radio and television media were at your disposal. You have had at least fifty or sixty interviews and statements. You would have done something about them if you had been able to do anything about these so-called documents. How you are trying to set a trap for the Revolution Council! Why did you not take any action all this time?

So I shall return to the imam's policy. The imam's line is the symbol and indicator of honesty, frankness, firmness, moral honesty and is void of any and all type of politics and any other kind of strategy. It is void of any accusations and slander against a person or persons, and is based on wisdom, perspicacity, intelligence and vision. It is for the protection of the Muslims and our homeland and for the greatness and respect of the Islam of the oppressed throughout the world. Wherever there is no honesty, wherever there is no frankness, wherever there is accusation and slander, then they are not acting in accordance with the imam's policy.

It has been decided that whenever there are any similar interviews they will be responded to every step of the way and word for word so that the public may be fully aware and enlightened. This was our discussion and answer. And as for the hostages, their decision to hand them over to the Revolution Council, the way I understood it, was nothing but a bluff. However, when they realized that the council would take them up on it, they started shouting and asking the people to come and not let this happen, to come and decide for themselves. If the Revolution Council is receiving and has received its legal standing and legitimacy from the imam, and if the imam's order is to obey the council's resolutions, then any kind of game playing with those decisions and any type of opposition to those resolutions would be in violation of the imam's order. And it would be unacceptable. And no one can dare say that he is in line with the imam's policy but that he does not abide by the imam's decisions. This is very clear and explicit.

I hope all of these remarks helped many dear compatriots to have a clearer mind. I am perfectly willing and ready to make many revelations by bringing and presenting some of the documents and to make it clear through these face to face debates so that--as I said in my statement yesterday--whoever has any falsehoods in him can be disgraced. May peace and God's mercy and blessings be upon all of you.

10 MARCH DEVELOPMENTS CONCERNING U.S. RELATIONS, HOSTAGES

Ban on Marches, Rallies

LD100812 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0730 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Announcement issued by the Interior Ministry; date not given--read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God. It has been noticed during the past few days that certain groups have staged unauthorized marches under the pretext of issues connected with the hostages at the U.S. espionage den. The noble Iranian people are therefore notified that these marches more than anything serve the purposes of the counterrevolutionaries and the opportunists.

Therefore, it is hereby stressed that any march or demonstration may only take place with the prior knowledge and authorization of the Interior Ministry. All marches, rallies, demonstrations and propaganda, under any pretext or in any form, are banned on Thursday and Friday, 13 and 14 March, in accordance with the Elections Law.

Bani-Sadr on Hostages, U.S.

JN100957 Tehran International Service in Arabic 0815 GMT 10 Mar 80 JN

[From the press review]

[Text] In his article on the issues of the hour published in the newspaper ENQELAB-E ESLAMI, President Bani-Sadr said some people are working in accordance with accurate calculations to harm the revolution and to wreck its reputation inside and outside Iran. There are also some people who are casting doubts on the truthfulness of those working in accordance with Islamic law, far from the East and West, in an attempt to deal a blow to the revolution.

The most dangerous are those who are hiding behind the cloak of friends while they are actually working to bring down the revolution's pillars and the Islamic Revolutionary system.

In his article, President Bani-Sadr said: Now that we are on the threshhold of the general elections, we find some groups that believe that their continuation depends upon the collapse of the revolutionary system. These groups are working for and supporting the factions that entertain trends of domination by obstructing the holding of the elections or by [word indistinct] in an atmosphere in which public opinion is subject to demagogue slogans, so that they can fish in troubled waters. However, our people have proven their vigilance and ideological and political maturity over the last 3 days.

In his article, the president said: Isn't the clamor that was created about the meeting of the UN commission members with the hostages aimed at creating this atmosphere? Isn't this uproar aimed at diverting attention from the basic issues? Is the confrontation with the United States and its schemes summed up in the issue of who should keep the hostages? Is it the students or the Revolution Council? Nobody can accept the notion that all efforts should end at the point as to whether or not it is permissible for the UN commission members to meet with the hostages. Shall we stop all our work and paralyze the country by arguing as to whether to accept the commission members meeting with the hostages? Can we face all plots in Khuzestan, such as the destruction of pipelines and others, by creating a storm about who is entitled to keep the hostages? Doesn't the confrontation with the United States lie in the confrontation of all these plots, in the stabilization of the Islamic government and in the consolidation of the pillars of the Islamic Republic?

President Bani-Sadr said that this confrontation cannot take place by inciting psychological warfare as to who is entitled to settle the hostages issue. The confrontation with the United States cannot assume practical form unless we rebuild the armed forces and sever and stamp out all subservient relations with the United States. This requires a serious and revolutionary struggle by all revolutionaries and necessitates their eagerness not to squander efforts and waste time.

Khomeyni Message on Commission's Meeting

OW101008 Hong Kong AFP in English 1007 GMT 10 Mar 80 OW

[Text] Tehran, March 10 (AFP)--Iranian revolutionary guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni today dashed hopes that the United Nations international investigating commission could see all the American Embassy hostages. A message published today said the commission could see only those hostages implicated "in the crimes of the shah and the United States in Iran." Once the commission has given its opinion on the alleged crimes it will be allowed to see the other hostages held in the embassy since November 4, Ayatollah Khomeyni said.

A spokesman for the students holding the estimated 50 hostages said they had accepted the ayatollah's decision.

More on Khomeyni Message

LD101200 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 10 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following the joint session of the Revolution Council and the Council of Ministers, which took place this morning in the presence of Imam Khomeyni at his temporary residence, the leader of the revolution addressed an important message to the Iranian nation.

In connection with the U.S. hostages of the former U.S. Embassy, the leader of the revolution addressed a message to the Iranian nation as follows:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Noble and struggling nation of Iran. Crimes committed by the shah and America need no proof. The shah and America made us dependent in all fields. Murder, vilification, imprisonment and exile were common practice for these criminals. We shall fight the U.S. Government to the end of our lives. We shall not rest until we put America in its place, cut off its hands from the region, help all liberation fighters to defeat it and enable the Iranian people to take over their own destiny.

To us there is no difference between the aggressive East and the criminal West. We shall fight and, as justice shall prevail, we shall triumph. U.S. domination entails calamity for all the oppressed nations. The aggression committed by the aggressive East has disgraced history.

Dear Iranian nation, beware, as we have long years of struggle ahead of us. To destroy you, the superpowers are engaged daily in plots. The devil's mischief harms the oppressed. [previous sentence in Arabic] The question raised nowadays is America and the American hostages and spies who are held by the Muslim and struggling students. In this connection I shall make a few points:

1. Copies of all documents related to the U.S. Government and the traitorous shah should be made available to the commission of inquiry into the crimes committed by the U.S. Government and the shah. As for the Muslim students, if they too have any evidence, then they should provide copies to the commission.

2. The meeting with the hostages involved in the dossier, on the crimes committed by the shah and America can take place for the purpose of their interrogation.

3. If the commission of inquiry announces its views in Tehran about the crimes committed by the ousted shah and the interferences by the aggressive America, then a meeting with the hostages [as heard] can take place.

Once again I declare my support for the Revolution Council and his excellency the president and call on everyone to help them and spare no efforts in supporting them. I want all strata to follow the praiseworthy Islamic ethics and safeguard fraternal rights.

My dear sisters and brothers, today is the day of unity and unanimity; today is the day when, if you fail in your unity, then you will be trapped either by the East or the West. Never adhere to a single idea; do whatever serves the interest of this land the Islamic nation. The movement of the noble nation of Iran continues to cut off the hands of the enemies. So long as America and other superpowers continue with their oppression and crimes our nation too will continue its confrontation and struggle against them, while safeguarding its comprehensive independence with all its might.

It is up to the intellectuals to increase their efforts in exposing the superpowers and powers. I hope that Khomeyni will never deviate from the straight path of Islam, which is fighting against the oppressive powers, and will never rest in realizing Islamic goals; as I hope our Muslims, especially the struggling Iranian nation, will endeavor toward achieving this Islamic goal and continue their struggle against the oppressors of the East and West.

I pray to God almighty for the victory of Islam and the Muslims. God bless you all.

[Signed] Ruhollah Mosavi Khomeyni, 10 March 1980.

AFP Reports on Khomeyni Decision

NC101003 Paris AFP in English 1001 GMT 10 Mar 80 NC

[Excerpts] Tehran, March 10 (AFP)--Iranian revolutionary guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni today dashed hopes that the United Nations international investigating commission could see all the American Embassy hostages. A message published today said the commission could see only those hostages implicated "in the crimes of the shah and the United States in Iran." Once the commission has given its opinion on the alleged crimes it will be allowed to see the other hostages held in the embassy since November 4, Ayatollah Khomeyni said.

A spokesman for the students holding the estimated 50 hostages said they had accepted the ayatollah's decision.

Earlier today the ruling Revolutionary Council met Ayatollah Khomeyni. President Bani-Sadr was not present. Immediately after the meeting, Foreign Minister Sadeq Qotbzadeh and council spokesman Hasah Habibi went to the Hilton Hotel where the commission members were staying.

At the embassy the militants holding the hostages and some 2,000 protesters staging a sit-in outside the gates awaited the council's decision. Mr Qotbzadeh said last night that the council would announce today the time and date when the council or its representatives would take over responsibility for the hostages. "The Revolutionary Council has told us nothing. We are sticking to our position," a spokesman for the militants told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE.

Last night the militants demanded 8 hours' notice of any handover so that they could publicise it on Tehran radio. Yesterday Mr. Qotbzadeh said the militants' demand was aimed at allowing them time to organize opposition to make the transfer.

As in previous nights, supporters of the students kept up an all-night vigil at the embassy. At 1:00 a.m. they marched around the compound shouting "Death to the United States," "Death to Carter" and chanting verses from the Koran.

EVENTS CONCERNING MAJLES ELECTIONS REPORTED

Possibility of Debates

LD081435 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1300 GMT 8 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Please pay attention to statement No 1 of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the plan for obtaining an absolute majority of votes in connection with the television roundtable:

Following a request made by a number of election candidates to Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of our country, for a debate to be broadcast by radio and television on the two-stage nature of the elections, the supervisory council of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran has informed those who have made the requests of its readiness to enable those who are themselves not election candidates and wish to participate in this debate to come forward.

Here is statement No 2:

The Supervisory Council of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced in a statement last night: Following a request made by a number of candidates for the National Assembly to Dr Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, president of the republic, on holding a television debate on the two-stage nature of the elections, the supervisory council has informed the applicants of its readiness to broadcast a television roundtable, requesting them to put forward as soon as possible persons who are themselves not candidates to take part in that roundtable.

Bani-Sadr Viewpoint on Debates

LD091334 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following a letter addresses to the president by those opposing the two-stage elections plan asking for a television debate on the plan, the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran has announced to the signatories of the letter its readiness to hold such a debate and asking them to introduce some noncandidates to take part in the debate.

Now the same signatories have written a second letter to the president and, while asking for the publication of the Revolution Council's proces-verbal on approval of the plan ff for holding the elections in two stages, have said that the condition put forward by the radio and television organization that those taking part in the debate should be selected from among noncandidates is illogical and, consequently, they have introduced some candidates.

After this second request, the following announcement was issued today by President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr, addresses to the Supervisory Council of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran:

The Supervisory Council of the Voice and Profile of the Islamic Republic of Iran: a group of people asking for a free debate on the two-stage elections plan has written a second letter. This is my view about this letter: 1) publication of the Revolution Council's proces-verbal is subject to the council's approval; 2) the authors of the letter know that in a city where there are 460 candidates, it is not appropriate for only some of them to take part in such a debate, as this means personal propaganda for them. This would be contrary to the view held by the authors of the letter in criticizing the methods used by others. Would it not be better for them to introduce one or two non-candidates today, so that the debate could be carried out tomorrow night? One ought to abandon an obdurate approach and create a healthy political climate; 3) as for the criticism leveled against the two-stage elections plan, obviously the opponents of the plan should be given the opportunity to express their views.

[Signed] President and chairman of the Revolution Council, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr.

Ayatollah Kani on Assembly's Importance

LD071320 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 7 Mar 80 LD

[Text] Following the reading of the resolution at today's march, Ayatollah Mahdavi Kani, member of the Islamic Revolution Council of Iran and the Council of Guardians and supervisor of the Ministry of Interior, read a speech. We now draw your attention to parts of his address: [begin recording]

In connection with the subject concerning man's choice I would like to draw attention to the significance of the Islamic National Consultative Assembly since it is one of the glories of Islam to allow man to intervene in his fate and as God has graciously said: "Their issue is to be decided by consultation between themselves." [Koranic quotation]

Now the issue of consultation whereby all the people may wish to express their views individually is an issue which is at variance with the principle of consultation, since the prerequisite of consultation is that following the exchange of views the views of the majority should become the center of attention--and there is no alternative to this. On the basis of the same calculation we at the Revolution Council supported the question of the so-called two-stage nature of the elections so that what is desired by the majority of the people should be heeded and so that the deputies and representatives of the nation would be the representatives of the majority of the people. [end recording]

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